

affordable mortgages to first-time homeowners, minorities, and individuals with less than perfect credit. In addition, the American Dream Downpayment Act of 2003 is helping thousands of low to moderate income and minority families with the downpayment and closing costs on their homes. My Administration also continues to support more funding for the Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program and the HOME Investment Partnership Program, which provide low-income citizens and minorities with more homeownership opportunities.

During National Homeownership Month and throughout the year, I urge citizens to consider homeownership opportunities in their communities, and I applaud American homeowners for helping fuel the economy.

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 2007 as National Homeownership Month. I call upon the people of the United States to join me in recognizing the importance of homeownership and building a more prosperous future.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this first day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:55 a.m., June 4, 2007]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on June 5.

## **Memorandum on Assistance for the West Bank and Gaza**

*June 1, 2007*

Presidential Determination No. 2007–20

*Memorandum for the Secretary of State*

*Subject:* Assistance for the West Bank and Gaza

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the

United States of America, including section 550(b) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2006 (FOAA)(Public Law 109–102), as amended by the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006 (Public Law 109–234), sections 620K(e) and 620L(b)(4) of the Foreign Assistance Act, as added by the Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–446), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, I hereby certify and report that:

With respect to the provision of assistance for the administrative and personal security costs of the Office of the President of the Palestinian Authority; for the activities of the President of the Palestinian Authority to promote democracy, peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and the rule of law and to fulfill his duties as President, including, among other things, to maintain control of the management and security of border crossings and to foster the Middle East peace process; and, with respect to independent agencies:

- it is in the national security interest of the United States to provide such assistance;
- as the case may be, the President of the Palestinian Authority, the President's party, and independent agencies and any members thereof, including any individual or entity for which assistance is proposed to be provided, are not members of, appointed by, or effectively controlled by Hamas or any other foreign terrorist organization; and
- such assistance provided hereunder will not be transferred or retransferred to any member of Hamas or other foreign terrorist organization or to any entity effectively controlled by Hamas or other foreign terrorist organization.

Accordingly, I hereby waive section 550(a) of the FOAA, as amended, and section 620K(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act, as amended, with respect to such assistance, and authorize such assistance for the above purposes.

Furthermore, I hereby determine that, with respect to assistance to nongovernmental organizations for the West Bank and

Gaza other than assistance covered by paragraphs (b)(1), (2), and (3) of section 620L of the Foreign Assistance Act, as amended, it is in the national security interest of the United States to provide such assistance as the Secretary of State deems appropriate, and assign to the Secretary of State the functions under section 620L(b)(4)(B) regarding the specific programs, projects, and activities to be carried out using such assistance.

I also hereby assign the functions of the President under section 550(b) and (c) of the FOAA, as amended and as carried forward under the Revised Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007 (Public Law 110-5), to the Secretary of State.

You are hereby authorized and directed to report this determination to the Congress and publish it in the *Federal Register*.

**George W. Bush**

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### **Digest of Other White House Announcements**

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The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

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#### **May 26**

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President had an intelligence briefing.

#### **May 27**

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC. Later, on the South Portico, he met with leaders of Rolling Thunder.

#### **May 28**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush traveled to Arlington, VA, where they participated in a Memorial Day wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery.

In the afternoon, they returned to Washington, DC.

#### **May 29**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to Brunswick, GA. While en route aboard Air Force One, he participated in an interview with Ron Hutcheson of the McClatchy Company. Later, he traveled to Glynco, GA, where he toured the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC. Later, on the North Portico, he participated in a photo opportunity with the 2006 Major League Soccer Cup champion Houston Dynamo.

Later in the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President met with Vietnamese democracy and human rights activists.

#### **May 30**

In the morning, in the Oval Office, the President participated in an interview with Kim Strassel of the Wall Street Journal. Later, he had an intelligence briefing.

Later in the morning, in the Situation Room, the President had a video teleconference with Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, two members of the Presidency Council, and Vice Presidents Tariq al-Hashimi and Adil Abd Al-Mahdi of Iraq.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Edison, NJ, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Chuck Wiemer.

In the evening, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Vladimir Putin of Russia to Kennebunkport, ME, on July 1-2.

The President announced his intention to nominate James L. Caswell to be Director of the Bureau of Land Management at the Department of the Interior.

The President announced his intention to nominate William J. Garvelink to be Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The President announced his intention to nominate J. Christian Kennedy to be accorded the rank of Ambassador during his tenure as Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues.